

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----051689 022208Z /15

O 022115Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3091
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USUN NY IMMEDIATE 742

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6435

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (LOWENSTEIN, ALLARD)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ALLARD LOWENSTEIN

REF: (A) USIA 20272 (B) BRASILIA 6409

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT ON MEETING WITH MINISTER MARCOS
AZAMBUJA DURING WHICH LATTER PRESENTED GOB AIDE-MEMOIRE
ON VISIT OF AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN (REFTEL).

2. AZAMBUJA'S ORAL POINTS ACCOMPANYING PRESENTATION OF
AIDE-MEMOIRE FOLLOWED TEXT VERY CLOSELY. HE STRESSED
THAT GOB WAS NOT OBJECTING TO LOWENSTEIN VISIT PER SE,
SAYING THAT PROBLEM WAS RELATED TO ITS TIMING BECAUSE
GOB DID NOT YET CONSIDER ITSELF SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED
TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THEIR GLOBAL/MULTILATERAL
CONTEXT. AZAMBUJA EXPLAINED THAT BRAZIL HAD, IN EFFECT,
BEEN ON SIDELINES OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS FOR OVER
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15 YEARS WHEN IT HAD LAST PARTICIPATED IN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, AND THAT IT FELT THE
NEED TO BRING ITSELF FULLY BACK INTO THE PICTURE
BEFORE RECEIVING A PRINCIPAL US REPRESENTATIVE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

3. AZAMBUJA NOTED FURTHER THAT PARAMETERS FOR

DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS HOST OF OTHER ISSUES COULD BE SET BY BOTH SIDES DURING SECRETARY'S OCTOBER VISIT. BRAZIL, HE INSISTED DID NOT WANT ANYTHING TO DESTRUCT ATTENTION OR IMPORTANCE FROM THAT VISIT. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION WHETHER THIS POSTURE APPLIED TO ALL VISIT AND CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. AZAMBUJA CONCEDED THAT POSSIBLE SUB-GROUP MEETINGS UNDER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, SUCH AS THAT OF THECONSULTATIVE SUB-GROUP ON TRADE. WERE NOT AFFECTED AND SHOULD GO FORWARD AS PLANNED.

4. AZAMBUJA REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO'S JULY 28 MEETING WITH ASST SECRETARY TODMAN, NOTING THAT MATTER OF AMBASSAODR LOWENSTEIN'S VISIT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN THEM AND, IN THIS CONTEXT, SAID THE GOB WAS SURPRISED THAT PERSONS WE PPROPOSED ABASSADOR LEWENSTEIN MIGHT MEET IN SAO PAULO INCLUDED SECOND ARMY COMMANDR GENERAL DILERMANDO MONTEIRO. AZAMBUJA SAID GOB WAS PREPLEXED BY THIS, AS GENERAL MONTEIRO WAS STRICTLY A MILITARY COMMANDER AND COULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE CONSIDERED TO BE A POLITICIAN OR A POLITICAL FIGURE.

5. IN RESPONSE, CHARGE SAID BRAZIL'S REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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POSTPONEMENT OF VIST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE IN WASHINGTON. HE STRESSED THE UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF THE VISIT. A MAN OF STATURE, MR. LOWENSTEIN WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED FOR HIS HUMAN RIGHTS WORK BY THE RANKING OFFICIALS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION AND ABOUT TO ASSUME SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA. WE HAD FELT THE VISIT, THOUGH UNOFFICIAL, WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. CHARGE NOTED THAT PROGRAM CONTEMPLATED BY EMBASSY FOR AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN--BUT NOT YET APPROVED HAD INVISAGED CALLS ON GOB OFFICIALS AS WELL AS INTERCHANGE WITH LEADING PERSONALITIES OF BRAZILIAN LIFE OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR A CALL ON GENERAL DILERMANDO, THE GENERAL HAD BEEN INCLUDED BY EMBASSY ON THE SUGGESTED LIST OF POSSIBLE CALLS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THIS BASIC APPROACH TO THE VISIT, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNOR OR VICE GOVERNOR AND OTHER LEADING PERSONALITIES OF THE SAO PAULO COMMUNITY, INSIDE

AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT. CHARGE NOTED THAT THE GENERAL WAS THE THIRD OR FOURTH RANKING OFFICIAL ON THE SAO PAULO PROTOCOL LIST, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GOVERNOR OR VICE GOVERNOR. (COMMENT: GENERAL'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS WIDELY KNOWN AND WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HIS SELECTION FOR HIS PRESENT COMMAND.) IN ANY CASE, THE CHOICE OF WHETHER TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN, WOULD BE THE GENERAL'S.

7. COMMENT: AZAMBUJA MADE CLEAR THAT THE DECISION ON AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN'S VISIT HAD BEEN MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA PERSONALLY. IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO MAINTAIN A FRIENDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ATMOSPHERE. IN THIS VEIN, AZAMBUJA REEMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES OVER THAT THE GOB WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A VISIT PER SE, BUT "WAS NOT READY" FOR IT. THE VISIT, AZAMBUJA SAID, WAS "PREMATURE" FROM THE GOB STANDPOINT, AND HE IMPLIED THAT BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY AMBASSADOR CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, HOPED TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN. HE ALSO REPEATEDLY CAME BACK TO THE THEME THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT "WAS ONLY A SHORT TIME AWAY". IT IS CLEAR TO THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOB RECOGNIZED THAT AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN'S VISIT IS INTENDED TO BE UNOFFICIAL. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOB IS CONVINCED THE VISIT WOULD HAVE OBVIOUS OFFICIAL OVERTONES AND WOULD BE PERCEIVED LIKE AN OFFICIAL ONE BY MANY SECTORS OF BRAZILIAN POLITICAL OPINION.
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TAGS: OVIP, (LOWENSTEIN, ALLARD)
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